



## **Zoning Resolution**

**THE CITY OF NEW YORK**  
**Zohran K. Mamdani, Mayor**

**CITY PLANNING COMMISSION**  
**Daniel R. Garodnick, Chair**

# **24-60 - COURT REGULATIONS AND MINIMUM DISTANCE BETWEEN WINDOWS AND WALLS OR LOT LINES**

File generated by <https://zr.planning.nyc.gov> on 2/16/2026

---

## **24-60 - COURT REGULATIONS AND MINIMUM DISTANCE BETWEEN WINDOWS AND WALLS OR LOT LINES**

---

LAST AMENDED

12/15/1961

---

## **24-61 - General Provisions and Applicability**

---

LAST AMENDED

12/5/2024

R1 R2 R3 R4 R5 R6 R7 R8 R9 R10 R11 R12

In all districts, as indicated, the provisions set forth in Sections 24-62 to 24-66, inclusive, relating to Court Regulations and Minimum Distance between Windows and Walls or Lot Lines, shall apply only to #community facility buildings# or portions of #buildings# used for #community facility# #use# containing living accommodations with required windows. For the purposes of these Sections, a required window shall be deemed to be a window or part of a window that:

- (a) opens into any room used for living or sleeping purposes, other than a room in a hospital used for the care or treatment of patients; and
- (b) is required to provide adequate light or ventilation to such room by any applicable law or statute.

The provisions of Sections 24-62 through 24-67, inclusive, shall apply only to portions of #buildings# at or above the sill level of the lowest required window. For the purposes of these Sections, #abutting# #buildings# on a single #zoning lot# shall be considered a single #building#.

---

## 24-62 - Minimum Dimensions of Courts

---

LAST AMENDED

12/5/2024

R1 R2 R3 R4 R5 R6 R7 R8 R9 R10 R11 R12

In all districts, as indicated, the minimum distance between different walls of the same #building# shall conform to the regulations set forth in the following Sections:

Section [24-63](#) (Outer Court Regulations)

Section [24-64](#) (Inner Court Regulations)

Section [24-65](#) (Minimum Distance Between Required Windows and Walls or Lot Lines).

A corner of a #court# may be cut off between walls of the same #building#, provided that the length of the wall of such cut-off does not exceed seven feet.

The Commissioner of Buildings may approve minor recesses, projections and architectural treatment of the outline of #courts# as long as these variations do not substantially change the depth or width of the #court#.

---

## 24-63 - Outer Court Regulations

---

LAST AMENDED

12/5/2024

R1 R2 R3 R4 R5 R6 R7 R8 R9 R10 R11 R12

In all districts, as indicated, #outer courts# shall be in compliance with the provisions of this Section.

---

## **24-631 - Narrow outer courts**

---

LAST AMENDED

12/5/2024

R1 R2 R3 R4 R5 R6 R7 R8 R9 R10 R11 R12

In all districts, as indicated, if an #outer court# is less than 20 feet wide, the width of such #outer court# shall be at least one and one-third the depth of such #outer court#.

---

## **24-632 - Wide outer courts**

---

LAST AMENDED

12/5/2024

R1 R2 R3 R4 R5 R6 R7 R8 R9 R10 R11 R12

In all districts, as indicated, if an #outer court# is 20 feet or more in width, the width of such #outer court# must be at least equal to the depth of such #outer court#, except that such width need not exceed 40 feet.

---

## **24-633 - Outer court recesses**

---

LAST AMENDED

12/5/2024

R1 R2 R3 R4 R5 R6 R7 R8 R9 R10 R11 R12

In all districts, as indicated, the width of an #outer court recess# shall be at least twice the depth of the recess, except that such width need not exceed 40 feet.

---

## **24-64 - Inner Court Regulations**

---

LAST AMENDED

12/5/2024

R1 R2 R3 R4 R5 R6 R7 R8 R9 R10 R11 R12

In all districts, as indicated, #inner courts# shall be in compliance with the provisions of this Section.

---

### **24-641 - Minimum dimensions of inner courts**

---

LAST AMENDED

12/5/2024

R1 R2 R3 R4 R5 R6 R7 R8 R9 R10

In all districts, as indicated, the area of an #inner court# shall not be less than 600 square feet, and the minimum dimension of such #inner court# shall not be less than 20 feet. For the purposes of this

Section, that portion of an open area not part of an #inner court# and over which, when viewed from directly above, lines perpendicular to a #lot line# may be drawn into such #inner court#, shall be considered part of such #inner court#.

---

## **24-642 - Inner court recesses**

---

LAST AMENDED

12/5/2024

R1 R2 R3 R4 R5 R6 R7 R8 R9 R10 R11 R12

In all districts, as indicated, the width of an #inner court recess#:

- (a) if 20 feet or less, shall be at least twice the depth of the recess; or
- (b) if more than 20 feet but less than 40 feet, shall be at least equal to the depth of the recess; and
- (c) need not be greater than 40 feet, whatever the depth of the recess.

---

## **24-65 - Minimum Distance Between Required Windows and Walls or Lot Lines**

---

LAST AMENDED

12/5/2024

R1 R2 R3 R4 R5 R6 R7 R8 R9 R10 R11 R12

In all districts, as indicated, the minimum distance between required windows and walls or #lot lines# shall be as set forth in this Section, except that this Section shall not apply to required windows in #buildings# of three #stories# or less.

---

## 24-651 - General provisions

---

LAST AMENDED

12/5/2024

R1 R2 R3 R4 R5 R6 R7 R8 R9 R10 R11 R12

In all districts, as indicated, except as otherwise provided in Section [24-652](#) (Minimum distance between required windows and certain walls), the minimum distance between any required windows and:

- (a) any wall;
- (b) a #rear lot line#, or vertical projection thereof; or
- (c) a #side lot line#, or vertical projection thereof;

shall be 20 feet, measured in a horizontal plane at the sill level of, and perpendicular to, such window; provided, however, that a required window may open on any #outer court# meeting the requirements of Section [24-63](#) (Outer Court Regulations).

---

## 24-652 - Minimum distance between required windows and certain walls

---

LAST AMENDED

12/5/2024

R1 R2 R3 R4 R5 R6 R7 R8 R9 R10 R11 R12

In all districts, as indicated, the minimum horizontal distance between a required window opening on an #inner court# and any wall opposite such window on the same #zoning lot# or between a required window and any wall of any other #building# opposite such window on the same #zoning lot#, shall not be less than 20 feet, nor shall any such wall be nearer to such window than a distance equal to one-third the total height of such wall above the sill level of such window. Such minimum distance need not exceed 40 feet.

Such minimum distance shall be measured in a horizontal plane at the sill level of, and perpendicular to, the required window for the full width of the rough window opening between such window and a projection of such wall onto such horizontal plane.

For the purposes of this Section, at any level at which two portions of a single #building# are not connected one to the other, such portions shall be deemed to be two separate #buildings# and shall be subject to the provisions of this Section.

---

## **24-66 - Modifications of Court Regulations or Distance Requirements**

---

LAST AMENDED

12/5/2024

R1 R2 R3 R4 R5 R6 R7 R8 R9 R10 R11 R12

In all districts, as indicated, for certain #community facility# #uses# in specified situations, the Board of Standards and Appeals may modify the regulations set forth in Sections [24-61](#) to [24-65](#), inclusive, relating to Court Regulations and Minimum Distance between Windows and Walls or Lot Lines, in accordance with the provisions of Section [73-64](#) (Modifications for Community Facility Uses).

---

## 24-67 - Permitted Obstructions in Courts

---

LAST AMENDED

12/5/2024

R1 R2 R3 R4 R5 R6 R7 R8 R9 R10 R11 R12

In all districts, as indicated, the obstructions permitted for any #yard# set forth in Section [23-311](#) (Permitted obstructions in all yards, courts and open areas), as well as the following, shall not be considered obstructions when located within a #court#. For the purposes of applying such allowances to #courts#, all percentage calculations shall be applied to the area of the #court# instead of the #yard#:

- (a) #Energy infrastructure equipment# and #accessory# mechanical equipment, subject to the requirements set forth in paragraph (g) of Section [23-312](#);
- (b) Fences;
- (c) Fire escapes in #inner courts#, where such fire escapes are required as a result of alterations in #buildings# existing before December 15, 1961;

Fire escapes in #outer courts#;

Fire escapes in #outer court recesses#, not more than five feet in depth;

Fire escapes in #outer court recesses#, more than five feet in depth, where such fire escapes are required as a result of alterations in #buildings# existing before December 15, 1961;

- (d) Recreational or yard drying equipment;
- (e) Steps.

In addition, for #courts# at a level higher than the first #story#, decks, skylights, parapet walls, roof thickness, solar energy systems up to four feet high, vegetated roofs, and weirs, as set forth in Section [24-51](#) (Permitted Obstructions), shall be permitted.